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FISHERIES

Blacknose Shark Management

**Presented to the
Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
March 30, 2016**



Outline

- Background
- Potential Management Options
 - Status Quo
 - Bycatch Limits
 - Commercial Retention Limits
- Discussion



Background

- 2007 Stock Assessments (SEDAR 13)
 - One stock across both the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions
 - Determined the stock to be overfished and overfishing was occurring
- Amendment 3 Final Rule (June 1, 2010)
 - Established separate blacknose shark and non-blacknose SCS quotas, and linked the quotas
 - Continued to allow landings of sharks with gillnet gear south of North Carolina and in the Gulf of Mexico based on comments that fishermen were able to avoid blacknose sharks
 - Encouraged all shark fishermen to avoid blacknose sharks
 - Stated that if fishermen continue to target blacknose sharks, NMFS would implement more management measures to ensure the rebuilding of the stock

Background (cont'd)

- 2011 Stock Assessments (SEDAR 21)
 - Concluded that blacknose sharks are two separate stocks (one in the Atlantic and one in the Gulf of Mexico)
 - Atlantic stock: overfished and overfishing was occurring
 - Gulf of Mexico stock: the assessment was not accepted and therefore, the stock status is unknown

- Amendment 5a Final Rule (July 3, 2013)
 - Divided the blacknose and non-blacknose SCS quotas into Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regional quotas and linked the regional blacknose and non-blacknose SCS quotas

Background (cont'd)

➤ Recent Years

- Landings data suggest that several fishermen have targeted blacknose sharks, quickly filling or exceeding the blacknose quota
- Non-blacknose SCS fishery has closed early due to the quota linkage (e.g., September 2013, July 2014, and June 2015)
- The non-blacknose SCS quota has been underutilized, as all SCS must be discarded once the fisheries are closed
- Blacknose shark quota exceeded in 2012 and 2015

Vessels Landing Blacknose Sharks

Year	Number of Vessels	Number of Trips	Blacknose landed per trip by % weight (lb dw)			
			0-25	25-50	50-75	75+
2010	29	200	158	30	4	8
2011	23	139	114	11	5	9
2012	27	187	133	29	14	11
2013	24	203	166	27	7	3
2014	21	145	61	46	24	14
2015	20	91	45	7	8	31

Background (cont'd)

- Amendment 6 (August 18, 2015)
 - Established a management boundary in the Atlantic region along 34° N. latitude for the SCS fishery
 - Maintained the non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark quota linkage south of the 34° N. latitude
 - Removed the quota linkage between non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark quotas north of the 34° N. latitude, and prohibited the retention and landings of blacknose sharks
- Post Amendment 6
 - NMFS has received comments from fishermen and a request from the SAFMC to address discards of non-blacknose SCS in the Spanish mackerel gillnet fishery

Rulemaking Goals

- Minimize the overharvest and discards of blacknose sharks
- Maximize the utilization of the non-blacknose SCS quota
- Extend the season for non-blacknose SCS fisheries

List of Potential Alternatives

- Alternative 1: No Action. Do not implement a commercial retention for blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region
- Alternative 2: Establish a bycatch retention limit of non-blacknose SCS once the blacknose shark quota is reached
 - Alternative 2a: 50 non-blacknose SCS
 - Alternative 2b: 150 non-blacknose SCS
 - Alternative 2c: 250 non-blacknose SCS



Alternative 2 in detail

Potential non-blacknose SCS commercial retention limits once the blacknose shark quota is reached and corresponding blacknose shark quota in the region.

Alternatives	(A) Non-Blacknose SCS Retention Limit	(B) Blacknose Shark Discards per Retention Limit (A / 3 = B) ¹	(C) Blacknose Shark Discards (B x 118 = C) ²	(D) Blacknose Shark Dead Discards (C x 0.50 = D) ³	(E) Blacknose Shark Quota Adjustment (D x 5lb dw = E) ⁴	(F) Blacknose Shark Quota Under the Different Alternatives (12.8 mt dw – E = F) ⁵
2a	50 sharks	~17 sharks	1,971 sharks	985 sharks	2.2 mt dw (4,927 lb dw)	10.6 mt dw (23,369 lb dw)
2b	150 sharks	~50 sharks	5,913 sharks	2,956 sharks	6.7 mt dw (14,781 lb dw)	6.1 mt dw (13,515 lb dw)
2c	250 sharks	~83 sharks	9,854 sharks	4,927 sharks	11.2 mt dw (24,635 lb dw)	1.6 mt dw (3,661 lb dw)

¹ Column B: Catch composition of non-blacknose SCS to blacknose sharks is 3:1

² Column C: Average number of trips that landed sharks with gillnet gear was 118

³ Column D: Dead discard rate for blacknose sharks is 50%

⁴ Column E: Average weight of blacknose sharks with gillnet gear = 5 lb dw

⁵ Column F: Atlantic blacknose shark quota is 80% of the adjusted 2016 quota (12.8 mt dw; 28,296 lb dw).

List of Potential Alternatives (cont'd)

- Alternative 3: Establish a commercial retention limit of blacknose sharks per trip for all Atlantic HMS limited access permit holders in the Atlantic region
 - Alternative 3a: 50 blacknose sharks
 - Alternative 3b: 16 blacknose sharks
 - Alternative 3c: 8 blacknose sharks



Alternative 3 in detail

Retention limits and number of trips per year for Atlantic blacknose sharks under the different potential alternatives.

Alternatives	Year	Retention Limit	(A) Blacknose Shark Landings per Trip (lb dw)	(B) 2016 Adjusted Blacknose Shark Quota (lb dw)	(C) Number of Trips per Year to Land Blacknose Shark Quota (B/A = C)
1	2010	-	140	28,296	202
	2011	-	189	28,296	149
	2012	-	161	28,296	175
	2013	-	135	28,296	209
	2014	-	243	28,296	116
	2015	-	402	28,296	70
	Avg	-	212	28,296	154
3a		50	250	28,296	113
3b		16	80	28,296	354
3c		8	40	28,296	707

Preliminary Steps for Blacknose Shark Rule

- 1) Consider input from the Advisory Panel
- 2) Summer/Fall – Draft EA and proposed rule released
- 3) Public comment period to coincide with an upcoming SAFMC meeting
- 4) Fall/Winter - Final EA and rule released
- 5) Effective for 2017 commercial shark fishing season

Additional Questions or Comments?

Please share them with us!

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